

Serial No. 10/673,772
Art Unit 3721

Amendment A

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

1. (Original) A strapping machine for positioning a strap material around an associated load, tensioning the strap material and sealing the strap material to itself around the load, the strapping machine comprising:

a frame;

a strap chute mounted to the frame, the strap chute including at least one fixed wall cooperating with at least one movable wall that, in a first position, defines a strap path through the strap chute and in a second position, releases the strap material from the strap path;

a strapping head mounted to the frame, the strapping head configured to convey the strap material into the chute and around the chute and to take-up and tension the strap material around the load,

wherein the strap chute includes at least one strap chute brush disposed between the at least one movable wall and the load, the strap chute brush having a length having a plurality of bristles transversely disposed along the length of the brush, the bristles extending proximal to the at least one fixed wall and defining a gap between an end of the bristles and the fixed wall, and wherein the bristles and the gap are configured to sequentially release the strap material from the chute as the strap material is pulled onto the load.

2. (Original) The strapping machine in accordance with claim 1 wherein the gap is configured having a width that varies along the length of the gap.

3. (Original) The strapping machine in accordance with claim 2 wherein the bristles have a substantially constant length.

4. (Original) The strapping machine in accordance with claim 1 wherein the bristles have a length and wherein the length of the bristles changes along the length of the brush.

5. (Original) The strapping machine in accordance with claim 4 wherein the

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length of the bristles changes in a constant manner.

6. (Original) The strapping machine in accordance with claim 4 wherein the gap has a substantially constant width.

7. (Original) A strapping machine for positioning a strap material around an associated load, tensioning the strap material and sealing the strap material to itself around the load, the strapping machine comprising:

a frame;

a strap chute mounted to the frame, the strap chute including at least one fixed wall cooperating with at least one movable wall that, in a first position, defines a strap path through the strap chute and in a second position, releases the strap material from the strap path;

a strapping head mounted to the frame, the strapping head configured to convey the strap material into the chute and around the chute and to take-up and tension the strap material around the load; and

means for restricting release of the strap material from the chute to sequentially exit the chute.

8. (Original) A strapping machine for positioning a strap material around an associated load, tensioning the strap material and sealing the strap material to itself around the load, the strapping machine comprising:

a frame;

a strap chute mounted to the frame, the strap chute including at least one fixed wall cooperating with at least one movable wall that, in a first position, defines a strap path through the strap chute and in a second position, releases the strap material from the strap path;

a strapping head mounted to the frame, the strapping head configured to convey the strap material into the chute and around the chute and to take-up and tension the strap material around the load; and

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means for sequentially releasing the strap material from the chute as the strap material is pulled onto the load.